

## Claims

1. A method comprising the steps of:  
providing a telephone apparatus having a first  
5 audio input device, a second audio input device, a  
first audio output device, and a second audio output  
device;  
coupling the first audio input device and the  
first audio output device to a first telephone line;  
10 receiving a first signal;  
modifying the coupling between the first audio  
input device and the first telephone line in response  
to receiving the first signal; and  
coupling the second audio input device and the  
15 second audio output device to a second telephone line  
in response to receiving the first signal.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first  
signal is based upon a hook switch signal.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the first audio  
input device and the first audio output device provide  
a hands-free audio interface to the telephone  
apparatus.
- 25 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the second  
audio input device and the second audio output device  
are associated with a handset of the telephone  
apparatus.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of modifying the coupling between the first audio input device and the first telephone line includes attenuating the coupling between the first audio input  
5 device and the first telephone line.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of modifying the coupling between the first audio input device and the first telephone line includes muting the  
10 first audio input device.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second signal; and  
15 modifying the coupling between the first audio input device and the first telephone line upon receiving the second signal.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the  
20 step of uncoupling the second audio input device and the second audio output device from the second telephone line upon receiving the second signal.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the second  
25 telephone line comprises an on-demand line triggered upon receiving the first signal.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the first  
signal is received during a first call associated with  
30 the first telephone line, the method further comprising

the step of placing a second call using the second telephone line upon receiving the first signal.

11. A telephone apparatus comprising:
- 5       a first audio input device;  
      a second audio input device;  
      a first audio output device;  
      a second audio output device; and  
      a telephone circuit to couple the first audio  
10   input device and the first audio output device to a  
     first telephone line, the telephone circuit to modify  
     the coupling between the first audio input device and  
     the first telephone line and to couple the second audio  
     input device and the second audio output device to a  
15   second telephone line in response to receiving a first  
     signal.

12. The telephone apparatus of claim 11 further  
     comprising a hook switch in communication with the  
20   telephone circuit to generate the first signal.

13. The telephone apparatus of claim 11 wherein  
     the first audio input device and the first audio output  
     device provide a hands-free audio interface.

- 25       14. The telephone apparatus of claim 13 wherein  
     the second audio input device and the second audio  
     output device are associated with a handset.

- 30       15. The telephone apparatus of claim 11 wherein

the telephone circuit modifies the coupling between the first audio input device and the first telephone line by attenuating the coupling between the first audio input device and the first telephone line.

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16. The telephone apparatus of claim 11 wherein the telephone circuit modifies the coupling between the first audio input device and the first telephone line by muting the first audio input device.

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17. The telephone apparatus of claim 11 wherein the telephone circuit is operative to modify the coupling between the first audio input device and the first telephone line upon receiving a second signal.

15

18. The telephone apparatus of claim 17 wherein the telephone circuit is operative to uncouple the second audio input device and the second audio output device from the second telephone line upon receiving the second signal.

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19. The telephone apparatus of claim 11 wherein the second telephone line comprises an on-demand line triggered by the telephone circuit upon receiving the first signal.

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20. The telephone apparatus of claim 11 wherein the first signal is received during a first call associated with the first telephone line, the telephone apparatus further comprising a dialing interface for

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placing a second call using the second telephone line upon receiving the first signal.

21. An article of manufacture comprising:
- 5 a computer-readable storage medium; and  
computer-readable data stored by the computer-readable storage medium, the computer-readable data to direct a processor to initiate steps of coupling a first audio input device and a first audio output
- 10 device to a first telephone line, modifying the coupling between the first audio input device and the first telephone line in response to receiving a first signal, and coupling a second audio input device and a second audio output device to a second telephone line
- 15 in response to receiving the first signal.

22. A method comprising the steps of:

providing a telephone apparatus having a first audio output device, a second audio output device, and an audio input device;

5       coupling the audio input device and the second audio output device to a first telephone line;

receiving a first signal;

10       uncoupling the audio input device and the second audio output device from the first telephone line in response to receiving the first signal;

coupling the first audio output device to the first telephone line in response to receiving the first signal; and

15       coupling the audio input device and the second audio output device to a second telephone line in response to receiving the first signal.

20       23. The method of claim 22 wherein the first signal is based upon a hook switch signal.

24. The method of claim 22 wherein the first audio output device provides a hands-free audio interface to the telephone apparatus.

25       25. The method of claim 24 wherein the audio input device and the second audio output device are associated with a handset of the telephone apparatus.

30       26. The method of claim 24 wherein the first signal is based upon a signal generated by a

speakerphone control.

27. The method of claim 22 further comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a second signal;

uncoupling the audio input device and the second audio output device from the second telephone line upon receiving the second signal;

10 uncoupling the first audio output device from the first telephone line upon receiving the second signal; and

recoupling the audio input device and the second audio output device to the first telephone line upon receiving the second signal.

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28. The method of claim 22 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second signal;

20 uncoupling the audio input device and the second audio output device from the second telephone line upon receiving the second signal; and

coupling another audio input device to the first telephone line upon receiving the second signal.

25 29. The method of claim 22 wherein the second telephone line comprises an on-demand line triggered upon receiving the first signal.

30 30. The method of claim 22 wherein the first signal is received during a first call associated with

the first telephone line, the method further comprising the step of placing a second call using the second telephone line upon receiving the first signal.

5        31. A telephone apparatus comprising:

        a first audio output device;  
        a second audio output device;  
        an audio input device; and

        a telephone circuit to couple the audio input  
10        device and the second audio output device to a first  
         telephone line, the telephone circuit responsive to a  
         first signal to uncouple the audio input device and  
         second audio output device from the first telephone  
         line, to couple the first audio output device to the  
15        first telephone line, and to couple the audio input  
         device and the second audio output device to a second  
         telephone line.

        32. The telephone apparatus of claim 31 further  
20        comprising a hook switch in communication with the  
         telephone circuit to generate the first signal.

        33. The telephone apparatus of claim 31 wherein  
         the first audio output device provides a hands-free  
25        audio interface.

        34. The telephone apparatus of claim 33 wherein  
         the audio input device and the second audio output  
         device are associated with a handset.



35. The telephone apparatus of claim 33 further comprising a speakerphone control in communication with the telephone circuit to generate the first signal.

5        36. The telephone apparatus of claim 31 wherein the telephone circuit is responsive to a second signal to uncouple the audio input device and the second audio output device from the second telephone line, to  
10        uncouple the first audio output device from the first telephone line, and to recouple the audio input device and the second audio output device to the first telephone line.

15        37. The telephone apparatus of claim 31 wherein the telephone circuit is responsive to a second signal to uncouple the audio input device and the second audio output device from the second telephone line, and to  
20        couple another audio input device to the first telephone line.

38. The telephone apparatus of claim 31 wherein the second telephone line comprises an on-demand line triggered upon receiving the first signal.

25        39. The telephone apparatus of claim 31 wherein the first signal is received during a first call associated with the first telephone line, the telephone apparatus further comprising a dialing interface for  
30        placing a second call using the second telephone line upon receiving the first signal.

40. An article of manufacture comprising:  
a computer-readable storage medium; and  
computer-readable data stored by the computer-  
5 readable storage medium, the computer-readable data to  
direct a processor to initiate steps of coupling an  
audio input device and an audio output device to a  
first telephone line, uncoupling the audio input device  
and the audio output device from the first telephone  
10 line in response to receiving a first signal, coupling  
another audio output device to the first telephone line  
in response to receiving the first signal, and coupling  
the audio input device and the audio output device to a  
second telephone line in response to receiving the  
15 first signal.

41. A telephone apparatus comprising:
- a hands-free audio interface having a first audio input device and a first audio output device;
  - a handset having a second audio input device and a second audio output device;
  - a hook switch;
  - a telephone circuit to couple the first audio input device and the first audio output device to a first telephone line, the telephone circuit responsive to a first signal from the hook switch to modify the coupling between the first audio input device and the first telephone line and to couple the second audio input device and the second audio output device to a second telephone line, wherein the first signal is received during a first call associated with the first telephone line; and
  - a dialing interface for placing a second call using the second telephone line upon receiving the first signal;
  - wherein the telephone circuit is responsive to a second signal from the hook switch to modify the coupling between the first audio input device and the first telephone line and to uncouple the second audio input device and the second audio output device from the second telephone line.

42. A telephone apparatus comprising:

a hands-free audio interface having a first audio input device and a first audio output device;

a handset having a second audio input device and a  
5 second audio output device;

a telephone circuit to couple the second audio input device and the second audio output device to a first telephone line, the telephone circuit responsive to a first signal to uncouple the second audio input  
10 device and second audio output device from the first telephone line, to couple the first audio output device to the first telephone line, and to couple the audio input device and the second audio output device to a second telephone line, wherein the first signal is  
15 received during a first call associated with the first telephone line; and

a dialing interface for placing a second call using the second telephone line upon receiving the first signal;

20 wherein the telephone circuit is responsive to a second signal to uncouple the second audio input device and the second audio output device from the second telephone line, to uncouple the first audio output device from the first telephone line, and to recouple  
25 the second audio input device and the second audio output device to the first telephone line.

43. A telephone apparatus comprising:

a hands-free audio interface having a first audio input device and a first audio output device;

a handset having a second audio input device and a  
5 second audio output device;

a telephone circuit to couple the second audio input device and the second audio output device to a first telephone line, the telephone circuit responsive to a first signal to uncouple the second audio input  
10 device and second audio output device from the first telephone line, to couple the first audio output device to the first telephone line, and to couple the audio input device and the second audio output device to a second telephone line, wherein the first signal is  
15 received during a first call associated with the first telephone line; and

a dialing interface for placing a second call using the second telephone line upon receiving the first signal;

20 wherein the telephone circuit is responsive to a second signal to uncouple the second audio input device and the second audio output device from the second telephone line, and to couple the first audio input device to the first telephone line during the first  
25 call.